
Borough of



Accrington

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, T.D., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

including the

Reports of the Chief Public Health
Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

FRANK KENNIFORD, F.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H., M.A.P.H.I.

== 1970 ==



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== 1970 ==

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

1970-71

THE MAYOR, Councillor A. S. Benson (ex-officio)

Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR W. PARKINSON

Vice-Chairman:

*COUNCILLOR Mrs. MORTIMER

ALDERMAN Mrs. HAINES

„ J. HODSON

COUNCILLOR G. G. BROADHURST

* „ Mrs. GRANT

* „ Mrs. HARRISON

„ A. NEWSHAM

„ Mrs. OWENS

„ Mrs. SLATER

„ W. STANTON

* „ Mrs. WHITTAKER

* Members of the Health Sub-Committee.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, T.D., B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

SHEILA M. HUTCHINSON,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

FRANK KENNIFORD, F.R.S.H., M.R.I.P.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

GEORGE GREENWOOD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Administrative Assistant:

ROBERT McCONNELL, D.M.A.

Assistant Cleansing Superintendent:

ERNEST LIVESEY

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

GARRY S. BELL, Dip., P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

JOHN M. DAVEY, Dip., P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

STEPHEN A. TODD, Dip., P.H.I.E.B.

GEOFFREY SIMCOCK, Dip., P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant: DAVID S. FINNEY

Student Public Health Inspectors:

DAVID T. CLARKSON

ALAN BROWN

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. A. THORNLEY (Senior Clerk)

Miss A. M. CUNLIFFE (Shorthand Typist)

PETER BRITCLIFFE

WILLIAM WHITELEY (Cleansing Depot)

ARTHUR SMITHIES (Refuse Disposal Works)

19 St. James Street,
Accrington.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Accrington.**

Mr. Mayor. Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1970.

Dr. R. C. WEBSTER, your Medical Officer of Health, for over thirty years, retired in December, 1970.

The Vital Statistics bear comparison with the previous year. The Birth Rate was 17.4 per thousand as opposed to a national average of 16.00; the Death Rate was 15.2 compared with the national average of 11.7. There were twelve infant deaths, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 19.1 as opposed to the national average of 18.

The incidence of infectious disease does not call for any special comment.

As regards tuberculosis, 18 new cases were notified during the year, ten being respiratory cases and eight non-respiratory cases. The actual number on the register showed an increase from 70 to 75.

I am sure that Dr. Webster would wish me to convey his indebtedness to Mr. Kenniford, your Chief Public Health Inspector, and Mr. G. Greenwood, his Deputy, and to all the staff of the Public Health Department for their unfailing help in the year. Dr. Webster would also wish me to convey his thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Town Clerk, and other Officers, for their assistance in the work of the Department.

Yours faithfully,

P. M. SAMMON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulances	}	Provided by Lancashire County Council
Home Nursing		
Home Helps		
Maternity & Child Welfare		
School Medical Service		
Tuberculosis (Home Visiting)		
Welfare of Aged		
Hospitals	}	Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board
Venereal Diseases Treatment		
Tuberculosis Treatment		
Laboratory		
		Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

Public Analyst - - Mr. A. C. Bushnell, F.R.I.C., M.Chem.A.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Housing.

See Public Health Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of new houses built in 1970 :—

1. By the Corporation, 104.
2. By other bodies or persons, 37.

B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses, 517.

2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings, 63.

- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year, 15.
2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, 15.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Eighteen new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 10 were respiratory cases and 8 were non-respiratory cases.

The incidence of males to females infected was as follows:

Respiratory, 6 males; 4 females.

Non-respiratory, 2 males; 6 females.

There were no deaths caused by this disease in 1970.

Total number of cases on the active register at 31st December, 1970 :—

Respiratory	males 37	females 14	=	51
Non-Respiratory	„ 12	„ 12	=	24
				<hr/> 75 <hr/>

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 70 cases during the year 1970. There were 57 cases of Measles, 5 cases of Food Poisoning, 3 cases of Dysentery, 2 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 3 cases of Infective Hepatitis.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 548 deaths registered in the Borough in 1970. Of these 293 were males and 255 females. The Death Rate for the year was 15.2 as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 11.7.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 185 of the registered deaths. Cancer came second with 110 deaths, and Cerebrovascular Disease third with 67 deaths.

It will be seen then that

33.75% of deaths were due to Heart Diseases.

20.07% „ „ „ Cancerous Diseases.

12.22% „ „ „ Cerebrovascular Disease.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 4,418.

Population (Census 1931), 42,991.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population,
mid 1970, 36,070.

Population—Preliminary Census, 1961, 40,987.

Population—Census 1961, 39,018.

No. of inhabited houses, (Census, 1931), 12,019;
(1970): 14,534.

Rateable Value, £1,164,194.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £4,491.

The social conditions of the Borough are generally good. Chief industries are textile weaving, finishing and printing, textile and general engineering, etc.

VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	288	278	566
Illegitimate	38	24	62
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	326	302	628
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Male	Female	Total
Stillbirths	7	4	11
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...	5	7	12
Deaths (all ages)	293	255	548
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			17.4
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births			17
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population			15.2
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Births			Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	19
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	19
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	16
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	110
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—
„ „ Pulmonary tuberculosis (all ages)	—
„ „ Others forms of tuberculosis (all ages)	—

TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, INFANT DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality
1970	628	548	12	19.1
1969	621	562	10	16.0
1968	616	597	20	32.0
1967	635	539	15	24.0
1966	585	593	15	25.6
1965	638	599	14	21.9
1964	631	568	9	14.3
1963	648	583	13	20.1
1962	617	611	13	21.1
1961	600	617	12	20.0

CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS DURING 1970.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Other Tuberculosis (incl. late effects)	—	—	—
Syphilis and its sequelae	—	—	—
Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm :—			
Larynx	4	—	4
Oesophagus	1	1	2
Stomach	9	5	14
Intestine	4	16	20
Lung, Bronchus	27	5	32
Breast	—	9	9
Uterus	—	4	4
Prostate	4	—	4
Leukaemia	1	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	9	9	18
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	—	2	2
Diabetes Mellitus	1	5	6
Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	2	—	2
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	—	1	1
Meningitis	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Nervous System etc.	1	—	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	2	7	9
Hypertensive Disease	4	7	11
Ischaemic Heart Disease	86	56	142
Other Forms of Heart Disease	11	12	23
Cerebrovascular Disease	33	34	67
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	7	9	16
Influenza	3	5	8
Pneumonia	25	16	41
Bronchitis and Emphysema	19	12	31
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	9	3	12
Peptic Ulcer	5	3	8

Appendicitis	1	1	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	—	2	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	5	8
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	3
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	5	6
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	—	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	6	7
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ...	2	1	3
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	—	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	2	2	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	4	7
All Other Accidents	10	1	11
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	1	2	3
	<hr/> 293	<hr/> 255	<hr/> 548

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year
1970.

	Total cases notified.
Acute Encephalitis	—
Acute Meningitis	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Anthrax	—
Cholera	—
Diphtheria	—
Dysentery (Amoebic or Bacillary)	3
Food Poisoning	5

Infective Jaundice	3
Leprosy	—
Leptospirosis	—
Malaria	—
Measles	57
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—
Plague	—
Relapsing Fever	—
Scarlet Fever	2
Smallpox	—
Tetanus	—
Typhoid Fever	—
Typhus	—
Whooping Cough	—
Yellow Fever	—
	<hr/>
	70
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1970.

NEW CASES.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—

10	1	—	—	—
15	1	—	1	2
20	—	1	—	1
25	—	1	—	1
35	1	—	—	—
45	—	1	1	1
55	1	—	—	1
65 and upwards	2	1	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	6	4	2	6

DEATHS.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	—	—	—	—

FOOD POISONING.

One outbreak of Food Poisoning occurred, resulting in 3 cases. The causative organism was salmonella typhimurium, but the foodstuff concerned was not discovered.

A total of 5 cases were notified during the year.

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

In 1970 the following examinations were carried out, viz :—

	By M.O.H.	By Deputy M.O.H.
Superannuation Acts	145	42
Other Examinations	82	25

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.

ANNUAL REPORT — 1970-71

Public Health and Cleansing Department,
Cannon Street,
ACCRINGTON.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my sixteenth Annual Report on the work of the Borough's Public Health Inspectors for the year 1970, and on the Public Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st March, 1971.

Statistics do not vary much from year to year and little of news value exists in a department which struggles unremittingly to promote personal and environmental hygiene, nevertheless I hope members will find some of the comments of interest in reviewing past activities from present circumstances. The wind of change is blowing and we look forward to local government reorganisation with confidence. Fragmentation of duties is expected to be minimal and the "sanitary services" of local authorities are likely to be controlled locally and not remotely.

Good progress continued in slum clearance and smoke control, etc., and a total of 18,742 visits were paid by the inspectorial staff.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water by the Calder Water Board from upland sources at Dean Clough, Mitchell's House, Burnley Road and Plantation Mill Reservoirs, upland and underground sources at Higher Antley, Lower Antley and Foxhill Bank Reservoirs, the underground supply from Altham Borehole, and the bulk supply from Manchester Corporation via the Haweswater Aqueduct.

Since its formation in 1963 the Calder Water Board have maintained the progressive policy of the former Accrington and District Water Board to improve and augment water supplies in the district.

All public water supplies are passed through pressure filters and chlorinated, but regular routine samples are taken by the Board from every source and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. Four samples of treated water submitted by this Department for bacteriological and chemical examination were reported to be satisfactory.

The supplies from Mitchell's House, Higher Antley, Lower Antley and Foxhill Bank reservoirs are soft moorland (peaty) water, having a low pH value, and are treated to neutralise acidity. Water from the other sources is not liable to plumbosolvency, and from regular examinations by the Board to ascertain pH value a standard of 8.0 is sought.

Approximately 45 houses, situated in the rural parts of the town, do not receive a mains supply but have private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.

Eight bacteriological samples were submitted from four separate premises. Five of the bacteriological samples were found to be satisfactory, but three bacteriological samples, all from one premises, were found to be unsatisfactory.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 142 waste water closets were converted to the fresh water system, of which 90 were eligible for grant aid under the Accrington Corporation Acts and 52 under improvement grant schemes. The various types of sanitary convenience in use at dwellinghouses in the Borough are approximately as follows, viz:—

	1970
Fresh Water Closets	13,216
Waste Water Closets	1,524
Pail Closets	73

The annual rate of conversion of waste water closets remains low, mainly as the result of high costs and labour shortages. This type of convenience is an anachronism which should not be perpetuated any longer than we can possibly help.

Assuming the present rate of progress it will be at least 10 years before we see the last of these insanitary conveniences. If the labour were available it would be relatively easy to recommend a phased programme for the systematic abolition of waste water closets by the use of statutory powers. However, one has to consider the relative merits of allowing conveniences to be converted on a voluntary basis as at present, with compulsion where necessary.

In these days we should question the advisability of perpetuating a 'convenience', be it waste or fresh water closet, 'at the bottom of the yard'. There is just no comparison between an external convenience and one inside the house for all age groups and the sick and infirm in all kinds of weather, not to mention frozen and burst water pipes.

Regard should also be had to the fact that the Corporation pay a grant of only one third, at present £18, towards waste water closet conversions, whereas Standard Grants under the Housing Act for improvements allow at present up to £75 towards a convenience inside the house.

If the clutter of tall outbuildings and walls to the yards of terraced houses could be eliminated then the environment of areas of the town could be transformed. Indeed this is the type of scheme visualised in the Woodnook General Improvement Area and the results will be awaited with considerable interest. The much cherished yard privacy will not be as necessary if the various outbuildings and high walls could be demolished.

A further slum clearance programme is referred to elsewhere, and when this has been approved by Council the time will be opportune to submit a report on the best method of dealing with the waste water closets remaining. The declaration of further general improvement areas in the town would obviously be the best way apart from cost and time. In the meantime householders should be encouraged to have facilities in-

stalled internally with the aid of Standard Grants. In my opinion external W.C's. should be installed only where essential or specifically requested, and better grant-aid should be considered. All these matters will be the subject of the report.

REFUSE STORAGE ACCOMMODATION

The work of replacing defective dustbins by informal action continued, 447 having been renewed during the year.

Due to the unhelpful law on dustbin provision the Council considered in 1954 reports from the officers concerned on the question of introducing a municipal bin provision scheme, but decided against at that time. It is now opportune for re-considering the matter, and a further report from the officers will be presented.

This report will include the problem of persuading occupiers to renew defective bin-shed doors and fittings. There is a marked lack of response to our informal notices to repair or renew, and consequently the appearance of back streets continues to deteriorate. Internal and external decorations, even stone renovation, will be done, but the bin-shed seems to be at the bottom of the priority list.

HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The following Table gives a summarised list of nuisances and housing defects discovered in dwelling-houses during the year and dealt with by the service of notices. It will no doubt be appreciated that where the number of defects, etc., remedied exceeds the number discovered, this is due to the fact that many such defects discovered in the previous year have been remedied during the year under review.

In many cases owners are persuaded to remedy defects voluntarily without the necessity of written notices. Such informal action occupies much of the inspectors' time, but results are usually worth-while.

In addition to the defects referred to in the table, blockages were removed by the Department's employees from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,534 premises.

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED AND ABATED.

DWELLING-HOUSES.

INTERNAL.

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied

Windows :

Woodwork	114	53	6	5
Cords	88	45	1	4
Fasteners	7	0	0	0
Glazing and putties ...	53	26	0	0
Mastic pointing	45	27	0	0

Doors :

Doors	11	4	1	1
Casings	5	0	0	0
Thresholds or weatherboards	1	0	0	0
Hinges and fittings ...	1	0	0	0
Pointing	0	0	0	0

Floors :

Boarded	42	24	2	2
Flagged	29	13	4	4
Damp	2	2	0	0
Water under	0	0	7	6

Walls :

Plaster	121	37	3	3
Skirting boards	7	3	0	0
Damp	53	14	2	2

Ceilings :

Plaster	135	44	4	4
Raining-in	68	8	2	2

Pantries, etc. :

Walls	0	0	0	0
Ceilings	0	0	0	0
Floors	0	0	0	0
Woodwork	0	0	0	0

Staircases :

Walls	0	0	0	0
Ceilings	1	0	0	0
Treads or risers	1	0	0	0
Handrails or balustrades	8	2	0	0
Open to bedrooms	0	0	0	0

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Fireplaces :				
Fire-ranges (ironwork)	2	0	0	0
Firegrates	0	0	0	0
Tiling	0	0	0	0
Fire backs	1	0	0	0
Flues (chimney or oven)	1	0	4	3
Side boilers	0	0	0	0
Ovens	0	0	0	0
Jambs or Lintels	0	0	0	0
Insufficient light	8	2	0	0
Insufficient ventilation ...	2	1	0	0
Electrical fittings	0	0	0	0
Gas fittings	0	0	0	0
Sinks	9	1	0	0
Lavatory basins or baths...	0	0	0	0
Waste pipes—sinks, etc. ...	7	1	0	0
Insufficient water supply...	31	9	10	10
Water pipes or fittings ...	2	2	0	0
Cooking facilities	2	1	0	0
Washing facilities	0	0	0	0
Food Storage facilities ...	3	0	0	0
Dirty premises	0	0	0	0
Carried forward	860	319	46	46

DWELLING-HOUSES.**EXTERNAL.**

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Dustbins or Bin-sheds :				
Bins	9	7	447	447
Lids	1	1	268	266
Doors	3	2	2	2
Locks	0	0	0	0
Frames	0	0	0	0
Structures	0	0	0	0
Misuse of Dustbin	5	2	20	17

	By Notice		Otherwise	
	Discovered	Remedied	Discovered	Remedied
Sanitary Accommodation,				
Drains, etc.				
Waste water or trough closets	19	13	19	17
Fresh water closets ...	3	2	14	14
W.C. pedestals	4	2	4	4
W.C. water pipes or fittings	5	1	0	0
W.C. flushing cisterns.	3	2	0	0
Soil pipes	0	0	0	0
W.C. structures	12	2	2	2
W.C. doors or fittings.	6	1	0	0
Door casings	2	0	0	0
Pails or privies	0	0	0	0
Cesspools or sewage disposal plants	2	2	0	0
Drains	10	9	104	102
Gullies, channel dishes	1	0	4	4
Coal Storage:				
Structures	4	1	0	0
Doors or fittings	1	1	0	0
Door-casings	0	0	0	0
None provided externally	0	0	0	0
Yard:				
Doors or fittings	12	5	0	0
Door jambs or lintels...	1	0	0	0
Walls	8	4	0	0
Surfaces	6	1	0	0
Drainage	0	0	0	0
Roofs	55	15	0	0
Eaves gutters	64	27	1	0
Rain water pipes	34	13	0	0
Waste pipes	9	4	0	0
Chimney stacks or pots ...	24	8	0	0
House walls (external) ...	21	7	1	1
Wall pointing	68	22	0	0
Cement rendering	31	16	0	0
Doorsteps or window or door jambs	5	1	0	0
Other structures	0	0	0	0
Refuse accumulations	12	10	44	42
Brought forward	860	319	46	46
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1300	500	976	964
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

HOUSING

Further progress was made in implementing our current slum clearance programme of 950 dwelling-houses over a ten year period. During the year 34 unfit houses were represented for clearance and 22 others purchased by agreement for demolition.

Of the 2 areas represented, neither were the subject of Public Local Inquiries and subsequently both of the resultant Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment without modification.

It is generally accepted that due to various factors the clearance of scheduled properties is at best a slow procedure. We must, however, try to ensure that the period between representation and demolition is kept to an absolute minimum so as to minimise the nuisance and expense incurred by vandalism in vacated houses in clearance areas.

Advance purchase of houses in proposed clearance areas continued as Council policy. Those acquired were either closed or secured, or, provided they could be economically kept in a reasonable state of repair, let until such time as demolition becomes due.

Since the preparation of the slum clearance programme in 1963 deterioration in the condition of many border-line houses, has taken place, chiefly due to continually increasing repair costs in relation to rent yield. Houses which could have been saved by more expenditure on repairs and improvement have now deteriorated into the slum category. In this connection, work commenced during the year on the preparation of a further programme which, it is expected, will cover approximately 389 houses. This would extend the original completion date of 1972 by 5 years.

In common with other northern industrial towns, Accrington has a high percentage of older terraced houses, which are mainly stone built and of similar construction, often lacking some or all of the standard amenities. Unless decay and obsolescence are arrested and improvements effected some will de-

generate into sub-standard housing eligible for clearance; many are in fact "twilight areas".

Although improvements to individual houses by means of standard grants are being carried out, it was considered by your Chief Officers that investigations should be carried out with a view to recommending the Council to consider declaring a General Improvement Area. The Woodnook area was selected as a pilot area in view of the clearance sites awaiting development and the twilight housing in the vicinity, and for other reasons. A detailed survey of approximately 840 houses in this area was accordingly carried out during the year by our inspectorial staff, and as a result of the information collated it was decided that the area was suitable for improvement of the houses and their environment.

Voluntary improvement of houses by owners continued and 203 applications for Standard Grants were approved; many of such houses where standard amenities were installed were also simultaneously repaired or reconditioned.

2,478 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors and 1,464 defects were remedied during the year.

**Progress of Clearance Programme
at 31st December, 1970.**

DEMOLISHED	Order	No. of Dwelling- Houses	No. of Unfit Dwelling- Houses
Manchester Road/Hoyles Court C.P.O., 1963		6	6
Manchester Road/Pollard Court C.P.O., 1963		14	14
Back Lane/Astin Court/Chadwick Fold C.P.O., 1963		14	14
Manchester Road No. 1 C.O., 1964		4	4
Castle Street (by agreement-1964)		5	5
Station Road, Huncoat (by agreement-1964)		1	1
Back Lane/Manchester Road Nos. 1 and 2 C.P.O's., 1965		11	9
Kenyon Street/Cobden Street/Mason Street (by agreement-1966)		9	9
Mill Street, Baxenden (by agreement-1966)		11	11
Burnley Road/South Street, Huncoat (by agreement- 1967)		11	11
Cobden Street/Cunliffe Street/Mason Street C.P.O., 1966		42	42
Nuttall Street Nos. 1 and 2 C.P.O's., 1966		39	33
Black Abbey Street/Jacob Street C.P.O., 1966 ...		7	7
Nuttall Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1967		34	31
Paradise Street C.P.O., 1967		3	3
Bank Street/Oak Street C.P.O., 1967		17	17
Grange Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1967		26	24
Grange Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1967		32	32
Grange Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1968		29	29
Grange Street No. 4 C.P.O., 1968		32	24
Wellington Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968		23	23
Wellington Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1968		6	3
Wellington Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1968		16	16
King Street/Moreton Street C.O., 1968		9	9
Castle Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968		11	11
Moore Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968		19	19
DEMOLITION DEFERRED.			
Thompson Court C.O., 1965		5	5
Cockerill Court C.O., 1969		3	3
CONFIRMED AND AWAITING DEMOLITION.			
Burnley Road/Melbourne Street C.P.O., 1968		10	10
Scaitcliffe Street/Paxton Court C.P.O., 1968		15	14
Plantation Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1968		12	7
Plantation Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1969		23	20
Plantation Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1969		20	14
Plantation Street No. 4 C.P.O., 1969		20	18
Chapel Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1969		12	11
Chapel Street No. 2 C.P.O., 1969		25	21
Chapel Street No. 3 C.P.O., 1969		5	4
Chapel Street No. 4 C.P.O., 1969		14	14
Croft Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1969		25	25
Ormerod Row C.O., 1969		5	5
REPRESENTED AND AWAITING CONFIRMATION.			
Crawshaw Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1970		30	30
Dale Street No. 1 C.P.O., 1970		4	4

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

	Houses	Flats
(a) By the local authority	—	104
(b) By other local authorities	—	—
(c) By other bodies or persons	37	—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1339
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose 2478
- (c) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit 684
- (2) Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:—
- (a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time) 238
- (b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made ... 350

2. Houses Demolished:—

	Houses	Displaced during year	
	Demolished	Persons	Families
In or adjoining Clearance Areas:			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	210	405	177
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc.	0		
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	13		

Not in or adjoining Clearance Areas:

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957	4	}	0	0
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	0			
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	0			
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	0			

3. Unfit Houses Closed:—

	Number		
(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	4	}	16
(2) Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	0		
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957..	0		

4. Unfit Houses made Fit:—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority	1	—
(2) After formal notice under		
(a) Public Health Acts	0	0
(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	0	0
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	0	—

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—

	1. Number of houses	2. No. of separate dwellings contained in column 1
Position at end of year:		
(1) Retained for temporary accommodation:		
(a) Under Section 48	0	0
(b) Under Section 17(2)	0	0
(c) Under Section 46	0	0
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 35	0	—

	Number of houses	Number of occupants
6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:— Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year	22	25

7. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, and Housing Act, 1969
Improvement Grants, etc.:—

Action during year:—

	Private bodies or individuals No. of dwelling buildings affected in schemes of -	Local authority houses or other buildings affected in schemes of -
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	30	—
(b) Approved by local authority	30	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(e) Work completed	16	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings in- cluded in (e) above	Nil	Nil

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961,
1964 and 1969.—Standard Grants:—

Action during year:—

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted to local authority—full standard	203
(b) Approved by local authority—reduced standard ...	Nil.
(c) Total applications approved by local authority	203
(d) Work completed	194

NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice:—

Intimation (preliminary)	201
Statutory	7
	<hr/>
	208
	<hr/>

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Borough, the last one having been closed last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., exposed to disease has always been carried out at the Cleansing Depot in a high-pressure steam disinfector. This is now beyond economic repair, and the high cost of replacement is not justified by the number of articles requiring treatment nowadays, and for the time being, arrangements have therefore been made to utilise facilities available in an adjoining authority when essential. Where necessary formalin solution and formaldehyde gas are used for disinfection, but modern opinion is that room fumigation is unnecessary except for certain diseases such as smallpox, etc. Thorough cleansing is usually adequate.

284 visits were paid in connection with cases of infectious disease and the necessary disinfection resulting therefrom.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

The arrangements agreed between the Corporation and the Blackburn and District Hospital Management Committee for the use of facilities at Victoria Hospital as the public mortuary continued to operate satisfactorily to the hospital, police and local authority.

VERMIN AND DISINFESTATION.

In carrying out treatments for insect pests insecticidal solutions and powders together with smoke generators are employed. In the older type of house the cockroach is a particularly troublesome and repulsive pest, which is difficult to eradicate and tends to become accepted as inevitable. More should be done by the owner and occupier, or even by the local authority, in order to suppress this obnoxious insect.

During the year the following treatments were carried out by the Department's Staff with satisfactory results, 62 visits having been paid for the purpose.

	No. of Premises	No. of Rooms
Bugs	0	0
Cockroaches	56	158
Fleas	12	46
Mites	3	7
Lice	0	0
Moths	1	1
Spider Beetles	1	1
Flies	1	1
	<hr/> 74	<hr/> 214

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The surface infestations which arise in dwelling-houses, business and industrial premises, etc., and originate chiefly as the result of rats gaining access by way of defective drains from the public sewers, have been treated as usual by the whole-time Rodent Operator working under the direction of the Inspectoral Staff. Although a charge is made for disinfestation work at business and industrial premises, a free service is afforded to dwelling-houses.

Regular sewer treatments are carried out to deal with rats at their source by the laying of poison bait in manholes. These treatments have had a considerable effect in reducing the rat population of the sewers, and consequently of surface premises, two men being engaged thereon for a large part of the year.

The methods of control adopted are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

During the year 3,483 manholes were poison baited.

1,580 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

ANIMAL WELFARE ACTS.

The Department is responsible for administering the Pet Animals Act, 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishment Act, 1963, and the Riding Establishments Act, 1964, which provide for the inspection and licensing of various premises where animals are kept. The Acts require the observance in these premises of certain conditions to ensure the health, welfare and safety of pet animals, horses, etc.

Liaison exists between the Department and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and a veterinary surgeon is retained for riding establishments.

Licences were granted in respect of 4 pet shops, 2 boarding establishments, and 1 riding establishment.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One tripe dresser carried on a scheduled offensive trade, the conduct of the premises being reasonably satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Since 1953 the Council have participated in a national survey for the volumetric measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere, instruments being installed at three suitable sites in the town and readings taken daily by our inspectoral staff: one of the sites unfortunately had to be discontinued during the year. The results of the readings are forwarded monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Department are preparing a report for the North West Region which will provide interesting statistics and conclusions based on readings taken in the area during the two years 1967/68 and 1969/70.

It is well known that the industrialised towns of the North are more heavily polluted than the South, and, combined with climate, the North West has all the predisposing ingredients for respiratory ailments. Accrington is making average and steady progress towards making the town smoke free. Creation of smoke control areas will have already significantly reduced smoke pollution over the town, and this improvement will be progressive. In addition to making the home and environment cleaner, this will improve the quality of life; smoke control measures are obviously necessary and worthwhile.

As sulphur is a constituent of solid and liquid smokeless fuels sulphur dioxide will continue to be present in the atmosphere, but smoke control measures have caused a reduction. Natural gas is sulphur free and conversions will help to reduce the sulphur dioxide concentration in the atmosphere.

A close watch was kept on high level smoke emissions from industrial chimneys, and the results of several years' work in this direction are now becoming evident. Since the Clean Air Act, 1956, became operative the amount of smoke produced by industry throughout the country is estimated to have been reduced by over 75%, but there are still problems from the emission of fumes, grit and dust. Difficulties arise from time

to time in the operation of boiler plant, but effective liaison between the managements and this Department generally enables us to resolve the difficulties with a minimum of delay. Five new oil-fired heating boilers were installed during the year, one in a new building and the remainder in replacement of old furnaces.

It became obvious during the year that supplies of certain solid smokeless fuels, mainly for use on open fires, would be inadequate during the winter months, and in order to avoid putting further drain on existing supplies it was decided to postpone the date of operation of Smoke Control Order No. 9 for 12 months until 1st November, 1971.

No. 10 area which includes 1,032 dwelling-houses was declared and subsequently confirmed during the year with an operative date of 1st November, 1972. This will bring the total houses subject to smoke control to 5,621, or approximately 39%, and the next order will bring the total to 6,911 or 48%. Thus half the town will soon be smoke controlled, and the appliances already installed will be relatively modern, efficient and capable of burning the available fuels of the future.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	No. of Inspec- tions (3)	No. of Written notices (4)	No. of Occupiers prosecu- ted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	5	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	165	236	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	8	Nil	Nil
Total	178	249	1	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	1	1	Nil	1	Nil

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of work (1)	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133(1)(c) (2)	SECTION 133		SECTION 134		
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Footwear	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Christmas Crackers	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The Act makes provision for the health, welfare and safety of workers in offices, shops, etc., and enforcement is divided between local authorities and H.M. Factories Inspectorate.

Duties under the Act during the year resulted in 151 visits being made by our inspectoral staff for the purpose of conducting 13 general inspections and also ascertaining compliance with notices served for contraventions of the required standards. In no case was it necessary to resort to formal action as re-visits showed a good response to informal notices.

Investigations were carried out in connection with 5 of the 6 minor accidents reported to us, and 16 additional premises were registered.

	Offices	Retail shops	Whole-sale shops, warehouses	Catering establishments open to public, canteens	Fuel storage depots
Number of registered premises at end of year	95	253	22	32	Nil
Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year	4	8	0	1	Nil
Number of exemptions current at end of year:					
Space (S.5.(2))	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temperature (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.9)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Washing facilities (S.10)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
Offices	603
Retail Shops	1127
Wholesale departments, warehouses	132
Catering establishments, open to the public	151
Canteens	13
Fuel storage depots	—
Total	2026
Total Males	731
Total Females	1295

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

During recent years, good progress has been made in the town towards the improvement or elimination of installations for the storage of petroleum spirit, this having been due to various reasons.

In the first place the formal adoption by the Council of the Home Office model code of principles of construction and licensing conditions (as supplemented) has enabled various matters to be complied with as conditions of licensing rather than as recommendations, and this has resulted in an uplifting of standards generally.

Secondly, the extension of the duties of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures to include the routine testing of new and old tanks and pipe-lines, as required by the model code, has resulted in the discovery of defective or leaking tanks, pipe-lines, etc. These may otherwise have been sources of danger. Leaking tanks are cleaned out and filled with cement slurry.

Another reason for improvement is that, on application for transfer of a licence to a new occupier, sub-standard installations are required to be improved to comply as far as practicable with the new code. The more ancient and obsolete type of installation will tend to disappear as the tanks fail the tests and are filled in. Future trends will be far more sophisticated self-service installations with correspondingly higher standards. In the meantime all Licensees are advised to seek the Department's advice on eliminating sources of danger with existing installations.

I should like to record our appreciation of the valuable co-operation extended by the Chief Officer of the Lancashire County Fire Brigade through his District Prevention Officer in the inspection of installations. My personal thanks are also due to Mr. P. Turner for the excellent work he is doing in the testing of installations and his collaboration generally.

The Council have been members of the Association for Petroleum Acts Administration since 1964, and this has been of inestimable value in administering the Acts: incidentally during the year I was elected Chairman of the North Western Branch of the Association.

195 visits were paid during 1970 and storage licences were issued as follows, viz :—

Petroleum Spirit	47
Petroleum Mixture	10

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

The Police Authorities continued to carry out the various duties under this Act on behalf of the Council, including issuing licences and ensuring animal movements in accordance with licensing conditions, and undoubtedly the uniformity created by their administration of the Act in Accrington and surrounding districts is beneficial to all concerned.

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

(a) Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Shown below is a Return of all samples of food and drugs analysed by the Public Analyst under the provisions of the Act during the year.

325 visits were paid by Public Health Inspectors in connection with the sampling of food and drugs.

Article of food or drug	Number analysed	Number adulterated or non-standard.	Percentage adulterated or non-standard.
Milk	48	—	—
Milk Products	9	1	11.11
Cereal Products	14	2	14.28
Meat Products	6	—	—
Fish Products	1	—	—
Preserves and Sugar Products	14	—	—

Sauces and Pickles	7	1	14.28
Canned Vegetables and Soups	2	—	—
Beverages	3	—	—
Soft Drink	5	—	—
Wine	2	—	—
Dried Fruit	3	—	—
Ground Almonds	1	—	—
Peanut Butter	1	—	—
Mustard Oil	1	—	—
Oriental Foods	2	—	—
Drugs	2	1	50.00
	<hr/> 121	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 4.13

Milk

There were no samples taken during the year reported by the analyst to be adulterated or non-standard.

Other Foods

One informal sample of Cold Relief Powder (lemon drink) contained $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of Cyclamic Acid sweetening agent. No action was taken.

One informal sample of Chocolate Fudge Dessert contained 560 parts of benzoate (expressed as benzoic acid) per million parts of the confection. There is doubt regarding the presence of preservative in this type of confectionery and until a legal ruling is given by a court of law upon a case pending at the present time the importers have suspended the sale of the product.

One informal sample of Cottage Cheese contained 49% of milk fat so it could be sold as "Cream Cheese". Alternatively it should be labelled "Full Fat Soft Cheese". The vendor was notified accordingly.

One informal sample of Mango Pickle in Oil was found to have a damaged bottle cap and underlying neck of the jar. The vendor was interviewed and the remainder of the stock was examined for general soundness.

One informal sample of bread was found to contain an unsightly pellet composed of carbon, fat and mineral oil. The bakery was cautioned and steps were taken to prevent a recurrence.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 to 1954.

Bacteriological examinations of milk samples were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

During the year 91 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for the phosphatase and methylene blue tests; with the exception of 6 void samples all satisfied the legally prescribed tests.

29 samples of sterilised milk were taken and were reported to comply with the turbidity test.

74 samples of untreated milk were submitted for the methylene blue test. 3 samples failed the test and were referred to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food for investigation.

88 samples of untreated milk, including the 74 samples referred to above, were examined for brucella abortus. The organism was isolated from 9 samples, of which 3 were from 1 producer in the town, action appropriate at the time being taken in respect of them. The remainder were from 5 producers in other districts, and these local authorities were notified accordingly.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are responsible for duties in connection with dairy farms, and the registration of persons carrying on or proposing to engage in the business of a dairy farmer.

The duties of the local authority are to enforce the regulations relative to:

- (a) the treatment and handling of milk;
- (b) the infection of milk and protection against contamination;

- (c) the cleansing and storage of vessels, utensils and appliances;
- (d) the conveyance and distribution of milk;
- (e) the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors.

149 milk distributors were registered under the Regulations.

(b) Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 and 1965.

The special designations permitted are "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Ultra-Heat Treated" for heat-treated Milk and "Untreated" as the special designation for raw milk.

The following licences were granted under the Regulations.
viz:—

Dealers' Licences	149
Pasteuriser's Licence	1
Steriliser's Licence	1

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

793 visits were paid to miscellaneous food premises for the purpose of examination of food and inspection of premises. In no instance was it found necessary to resort to formal seizure of unsound food, all being surrendered voluntarily. The articles of food which were given up for destruction as being unfit for human consumption were as follow:—

Miscellaneous Pre-Packed Foods	781 containers
Miscellaneous Frozen Foods	4,642 packets
Meat	232½ lbs.
Apples	480
Toffee	36 lbs.
Frozen Liquid Egg	28 lbs.
Turkeys	18
Ducklings	3
Frozen Meat and Offal	116 lbs.

Pears	440 lbs.
Peaches	128
Pre-packed Cakes	117
Flour	9 lbs.
Chickens	86
Fish	480 lbs.

FOOD PREMISES

The table which follows is a classification of the various types of food premises in the town:—

Type of Business	Number
Grocers and Provision Dealers	149
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	8
Fishmongers	5
Meat Shops	42
Bakers and Confectioners	47
Fried Fish Shops	33
Sweets, Minerals, Ice Cream, etc.	31
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars ...	122
	<hr/> 437 <hr/>

The above-mentioned food premises include certain ones which require registration under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, viz:—

Manufacture of Ice Cream	1
Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	127
Preparation of Sausage, Preserved Foods, etc.	52
	<hr/>
	180
	<hr/>

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

Section 50 of the 1948 Act imposes on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died in their area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body will be made otherwise than by the authority.

During the year under review, two burials were effected at a net cost to the Corporation, after deducting receipts for death grants, of £13.65, the deceased persons being an adult and a child.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ended 31st March, 1971.

REFUSE DEALT WITH.

(1) Refuse Collected.	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
House and Shop Refuse	7,841	17	1
Market Refuse	258	10	0
Trade and Other Refuse	1,603	14	2
	<hr/>		
	9,704	1	3
	<hr/>		

(2) Methods of Disposal of Refuse.

Taken to tips (10.9%)	1,054	2	2
Dealt with at Disposal Works			
(a) Separation and			
Incineration (82.4%) 8,000 14 0			
(b) Direct Incineration 649 5 1			
(6.7%)			
	<hr/>		
	8,649	19	1
	<hr/>		
	9,704	1	3
	<hr/>		

(3) Weight of Refuse.

Actually weighed	9,041	5	0
Estimated weight	176	14	3
Estimated weight from test weighings	486	2	0
	<hr/>		
	9,704	1	3
	<hr/>		

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

Vehicle	Purchased	Actual hours worked	Repairs	Cleaning	%Hours Running	Hours Holidays	Hours not Working
*S. & D. 781UTE	June 1961	2145 $\frac{1}{4}$	66	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	91.8	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
S. & D. 282UTF	June 1961	2275	63 $\frac{1}{4}$	16	93.3	58 $\frac{1}{4}$	27 $\frac{1}{4}$
S. & D. 1198 TD	June 1962	1768	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	74.2	69 $\frac{3}{4}$	448 $\frac{1}{2}$
S. & D. TTE 529D	February 1966	1843 $\frac{1}{4}$	201 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{4}$	81.2	76 $\frac{3}{4}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
S. & D. UTJ 359D	April 1966	2062 $\frac{3}{4}$	68 $\frac{1}{4}$	64 $\frac{1}{4}$	91.7	49	4
S. & D. JTE 90F	April 1968	2025 $\frac{1}{4}$	76 $\frac{3}{4}$	71 $\frac{1}{4}$	89.3	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{4}$
S. & D. MTC 899G	September 1968	2072 $\frac{3}{4}$	40 $\frac{1}{4}$	66 $\frac{1}{4}$	92.2	57 $\frac{1}{4}$	11
S. & D. DTD 893J	March 1971	162	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	93.4	—	—
Dennis GE 443 HTD	March 1959	1431 $\frac{1}{4}$	149 $\frac{3}{4}$	211 $\frac{1}{4}$	63.0	65 $\frac{3}{4}$	412 $\frac{3}{4}$
†Bedford CBV 118C	January 1971	354	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	48.2	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	330 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bedford VTJ 532H	March 1970	2059 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	34 $\frac{3}{4}$	86.6	71 $\frac{1}{4}$	164 $\frac{1}{2}$
*Lewin M.O. 452 ETE	April 1958	223 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{3}{4}$	17	20.6	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	772 $\frac{1}{4}$
Lewin M.O. WTB 331D	May 1966	1504 $\frac{1}{4}$	232 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	70.8	73 $\frac{3}{4}$	168
Johnston SS CTJ 589J	January 1971	133 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	59.4	—	53
Karrier ETB 324B	April 1964	2185 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{3}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	90.9	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{4}$
Karrier ETB 325B	April 1964	2213 $\frac{3}{4}$	52 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	92.8	60 $\frac{3}{4}$	44 $\frac{1}{4}$
TOTAL		24460$\frac{1}{2}$	1246$\frac{3}{4}$	794	81.6	845$\frac{1}{2}$	2631

† Second-hand vehicle

* These vehicles were scrapped during the year.

In order to ensure that the motor vehicles in the Department are not kept in use beyond their economic life, and that the fleet is kept in a roadworthy condition to satisfy transport legislation, a Vehicle Renewal Programme for the year 1970/71 was presented and approved. This proposed purchase of new vehicles during the year — a refuse collector, gully emptier, suction road sweeper, two gritting vehicles/snow ploughs and a Land Rover.

The present Cleansing Depot where vehicles are garaged and repaired is now too small to accommodate our vehicles, and a larger or extended building is required as a matter of some urgency; additional equipment is necessary to keep vehicles up to the standards now imposed. However, with re-organisation in the offing it would be obviously unwise to plan just for Accrington's needs only. In addition the requirements of other departments will have to be considered.

REFUSE COLLECTION — DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT:

	Spring Hill & Higher Antley	West and North	East and South	North, Peel Park & Huncoat	Centre
Total emptyings	171,343	162,145	157,265	159,481	148,431
Total tonnage	1,596.3	1,462.1	1,444.1	1,515.3	1,190.7
Bins per man per hour	21	19	19	19	18
Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin)	lbs. 429	lbs. 394	lbs. 386	lbs. 402	lbs. 322
Weight per bin (lbs.)	21	20	20	21	18
No. of bins for District	3,336	3,240	3,310	3,227	3,041
Frequency of emptyings	51	50	48	49	49

REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.

SALES.

Year Ended March 31st, 1971.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	p
Waste Paper	837	11	0	8,733.	56
Textiles	0	6	1	20.	55
Compressed Scrap	351	10	3	1,731.	34
Other Metal Scrap	1	12	3	182.	25
Scrap Iron	22	9	3		
Reclaimed Cinders	144	2	0	243.	86
				<hr/> £10,911.56 <hr/>	

The present Refuse Disposal Works were built in 1925, and a major scheme of alterations and improvements carried out in 1956, while an additional incinerator was erected in 1967. The volume of refuse is increasing at a rate of 3 to 5% per annum and it is therefore obvious that plant installed 15 years ago is now working to capacity.

A scheme has been prepared for further alterations and extensions to include replacement of hoist and grab, extension of furnaces, and environmental improvements, i.e. fume extraction, clinker quenching chamber, grit arresting equipment, etc. Simultaneously investigations are proceeding with our Work Study Section to ascertain the possibility of more effective use of the existing plant in order to try to assist fairly quickly certain adjoining local authorities who are short of tipping space, as indeed is Accrington. In this latter connection I should like to record my appreciation of the splendid co-operation received from Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council who allow the Department the use of their tip when necessary.

As the Government's proposals for local government re-organisation include at present transfer of refuse disposal to the new county authorities, we have to consider what will be best for the authorities in the Hyndburn area. Refuse collection will remain a local function and a central incineration plant will obviously be of prime importance if haulage costs for collection are to be kept to a minimum.

During the year under review the total receipts from sales increased by £3,027 compared with the previous year, mainly due to the effects of the fire at the works in the financial year 1969/70. The weight of waste paper baled increased by 77 tons and the revenue by £1,879. Compressed scrap also increased by 195 tons in weight and £970 in value. Other sales increased for the same reason.

The sum of £2,509.26, was distributed among the Department's employees through the Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of clean waste paper, as compared with £1,962.09 during the previous year. Of this sum £571.32 was paid to employees at the Refuse Disposal Works as the result of the scheme for salvaging clean waste paper at the works.

The townspeople of Accrington are aware of the free service given by this Department for the collection of household refuse, furniture, etc., this service is available for the price of a phone call, postcard or visit to the office. In fact 2,926 special collections of this type were made during the year. In spite of this open spaces in the town continue to have household discards dumped on them necessitating frequent and costly tidying-up operations. In the case of litter on the streets one wonders whether on-the-spot fines would be the best answer as publicity makes little impression. Contractors and householders dump building rubble in back streets hoping it will disappear without any effort by them.

However, one of the prime despoilers of the environment, apart from man himself, is the dog. The majority of people are dog-lovers but in too many cases the affection of the dog-owner does not extend to his fellow citizens. The doting owner allows his dog to desecrate footways, verges and private property, and unenforceable byelaws are not the answer. Dogs are still taken into food shops, allowed to run loose on busy roads, and cause noise nuisance to neighbours, not to mention depredations to farm livestock. The dog population is too great to be properly cared for, and somehow dog owners should be made aware of their obligation to society as well as to their pet.

European Conservation Year has ended but the emergence of the National interest in pollution is most welcome to those of us whose job is environmental hygiene. As the

result of publicity measures, including widespread television coverage, many voluntary bodies are trying to assist in improving the environment. We hope they can stimulate the greater co-operation of the community and we will appreciate their assistance in a campaign which has no simple solution.

The Winter of 1970/71 was much better than the previous year so far as frost and snowfalls were concerned. Action was taken to improve and renew our gritting machines and snow-ploughs in readiness for the following winter, and the Council's consent enabled us to prepare a scheme for the demolition of old buildings at the former Public Abattoirs and convert those remaining to salt stores.

In conclusion I should like to thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year. I thank also my colleague officials for their usual co-operation and assistance.

This report marks the end of an era for me as 23 years' association with Dr. Webster has terminated. I should like to say that it has been a pleasure and privilege to work with him all these years, and my personal thanks are due to him for his support and help at all times; I know I voice the opinions of my staff also.

Finally, my thanks are due to a capable and loyal staff and body of men without whom the Department could not function efficiently.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. KENNIFORD,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

